

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A CMOS image sensor, comprising:

pixel sensors arranged in the form of a two-dimensional array, each pixel sensor comprising a photodiode at a signal detection node and a pair of pass transistors, which passes a photodiode reset signal to a gate of a transistor that resets said photodiode, only when said pixel sensor is selected;

means, disposed in each pixel sensor, for obtaining a signal whose reset noise is reduced and that corresponds to the absolute value of the amount of incident light; and

means for outputting said signal in a block-scanning fashion

wherein said photodiode reset signal is given as the logical AND of a column block selection signal and a pixel reset signal.

- 2.-3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) A CMOS image sensor, comprising:

pixel sensors arranged in a two-dimensional array, each pixel sensor comprising floating diffusion at a signal detection mode and a pair of pass transistors, which passes a transfer signal to a gate of a transistor that transfers a signal charge of a photodiode, only when said pixel sensor is selected;

means, disposed in each pixel sensor, for obtaining a signal whose rest noise is reduces and that corresponds to the absolute value of the amount of incident light; and

means for outputting said signal in a block-scanning fashion;

wherein said transfer signal is given as the logical AND of a column block selection signal and a pixel transfer signal.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A CMOS image sensor comprising:
a plurality of ~~photogate-type~~ photogate pixel sensors arranged in a two-dimensional array;
a pair of pass transistors for passing a photogate control signal thereby transferring corresponding signal charges, only when a corresponding row is selected; and
a pair of pass transistors for passing a pixel transfer signal thereby allowing corresponding signal charges to be transferred, only when a corresponding column block is selected.
7. (Previously Presented) The CMOS image sensor according to claim 6, wherein said pixel transfer signal falls down before said photogate control signal rises up.
8. (Previously Presented) A CMOS image sensor comprising:
a pixel sensor according to claim 1; and
means for selectively connecting the output of the pixel sensor to a circuit for reading one row of block.
9. (Original) A CMOS image sensor comprising:
a pixel sensor according to claim 4; and
means for selectively connecting the output of the pixel sensor to a circuit for reading one row of block.
10. (Original) A CMOS image sensor comprising:
a pixel sensor according to claim 6; and
means for selectively connecting the output of the pixel sensor to a circuit for reading one row of block.
11. (Original) A camera that automatically controls brightness, comprising:
a CMOS image sensor according to claim 1;

means for estimating the average brightness over an entire screen of said CMOS image sensor from brightness detected for a several blocks in a central area and in a peripheral area of the screen; and

a programmable gain amplifier having a gain that is automatically controlled in accordance with the estimated brightness.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) A camera that automatically controls brightness, comprising:

a CMOS image sensor according to claim 4;

means for estimating the average brightness over an entire screen of said CMOS image sensor from brightness detected for a several blocks in a central area and in a peripheral area of the screen; and

a programmable gain amplifier having a gain that is automatically controlled in accordance with the estimated brightness.

14. (Original) A camera that automatically controls brightness, comprising:

a CMOS image sensor according to claim 6;

means for estimating the average brightness over an entire screen of said CMOS image sensor from brightness detected for a several blocks in a central area and in a peripheral area of the screen; and

a programmable gain amplifier having a gain that is automatically controlled in accordance with the estimated brightness.

15. (Original) A camera that automatically controls brightness, comprising:

a CMOS image sensor according to claim 7;

means for estimating the average brightness over an entire screen of said CMOS image sensor from brightness detected for a several blocks in a central area and in a peripheral area of the screen; and

a programmable gain amplifier having a gain that is automatically controlled in accordance with the estimated brightness.

16. (Original) A camera that automatically controls brightness, comprising:

a CMOS image sensor according to claim 8;

means for estimating the average brightness over an entire screen of said CMOS image sensor from brightness detected for a several blocks in a central area and in a peripheral area of the screen; and

a programmable gain amplifier having a gain that is automatically controlled in accordance with the estimated brightness.

17. (Original) A monitor camera, comprising:

a CMOS image sensor according to claim 1;

means for detecting whether there is a substantial change in an image by reading several blocks in a central area and in a peripheral area of an image screen of said CMOS image sensor; and

means for continuously taking an image over the entire screen when a substantial change is detected.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) A monitor camera, comprising:

a CMOS image sensor according to claim 4;

means for detecting whether there is a substantial change in an image by reading several blocks in a central area and in a peripheral area of an image screen of said CMOS image sensor; and

means for continuously taking an image over the entire screen when a substantial change is detected.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Original) A monitor camera, comprising:

a CMOS image sensor according to claim 6;

means for detecting whether there is a substantial change in an image by reading several blocks in a central area and in a peripheral area of an image screen of said CMOS image sensor; and

means for continuously taking an image over the entire screen when a substantial change is detected.

22. (Original) A monitor camera, comprising:

a CMOS image sensor according to claim 7;

means for detecting whether there is a substantial change in an image by reading several blocks in a central area and in a peripheral area of an image screen of said CMOS image sensor; and

means for continuously taking an image over the entire screen when a substantial change is detected.

23. (Original) An autofocus camera, comprising:

a CMOS image sensor according to claim 1;

means for adjusting focus by reading several blocks in a central area of an image screen of said CMOS image sensor; and

means for taking an image over the entire screen after completion of the focus adjustment.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented) An autofocus camera, comprising:

a CMOS image sensor according to claim 4;
means for adjusting focus by reading several blocks in a central area of an
image screen of said CMOS image sensor; and
means for taking an image over the entire screen after completion of the focus
adjustment.

26. (Original) An autofocus camera, comprising:
a CMOS image sensor according to claim 6;
means for adjusting focus by reading several blocks in a central area of an
image screen of said CMOS image sensor; and
means for taking an image over the entire screen after completion of the focus
adjustment.

27. (Original) An autofocus camera, comprising:
a CMOS image sensor according to claim 7;
means for adjusting focus by reading several blocks in a central area of an
image screen of said CMOS image sensor; and
means for taking an image over the entire screen after completion of the focus
adjustment.

28. (Original) An autofocus camera, comprising:
a CMOS image sensor according to claim 8;
means for adjusting focus by reading several blocks in a central area of an
image screen of said CMOS image sensor; and
means for taking an image over the entire screen after completion of the focus
adjustment.